

The Parish *Voice*

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF BRUNSWICK AND BRUNSWICK EAST
AUGUST 2018 – VOLUME 9 NO 2

Parish Pilgrims bound for Russia



Back row L to R: Tricia Murray, Maureen Baglieri, Emanuel Baglieri, Mel Koumides, Lina Ventura, Luciana Martini, Mario Martini, Teresa Leung, Emily Cross. **Front row L to R:** John Murray, Bernadette Murray, Bernadette Mercieca, Annette Tepper, Ernest Bennett, Jo Bennett, Fr Michael

On 16 August, a group of sixteen parishioners will be heading to Russia for a Byzantine Iconography pilgrimage. We will be joined there by Dr Ursula Betka, a Melbourne iconographer. The pilgrimage will begin in Moscow with visits to the cathedrals within the Kremlin and other places such as the Icons Museum and the Tretyakov Gallery, where Andrei Rublev's famous icon of the Trinity is housed. We will journey to St Sergius' Monastery, the heart of the Russian Orthodox Church, to see where Rublev actually lived in the 15th century, and experience the wonder of the magnificent iconostasis in the cathedral there.

During our time in Moscow, some of the group will be attending the Russian ballet on one of the evenings, and we also hope to see the famous Space Museum!

We then journey to Veliky Novgorod, one of the most important historic cities in Russia, noted for the variety and age of its medieval monuments. The foremost among these is the Cathedral of St Sophia, built between 1045 and 1050. After a couple of days in that city, we will travel to St Petersburg. There we will visit the studio of iconographers Philip Davydov and Olga Shalamova, as well as many other historical and holy places.

Fr Michael will be our chaplain for the pilgrimage, so we will have the opportunity to regularly pray together and celebrate Mass. We are hoping to attend a Catholic Russian Mass on at least one of the days. Please pray for us as we will pray for you.

Tricia Murray

Centenary of Our Lady's Church

Over 170 parishioners and friends gathered on Pentecost Sunday to celebrate the Centenary of the Blessing and Opening of Our Lady's church. At 3pm we began by gathering at a plaque, on a rock in front of the church, acknowledging the original indigenous owners of the site on which the church was built. Lily Chalmers read an 'Acknowledgement to Country' after which we all processed into the church while the choir sang 'Veni Sancte Spiritus'. Maureen O'Brien then welcomed everyone with these words:

Seven years ago we celebrated the Centenary of the founding of Our Lady's Parish East Brunswick. Today we celebrate the Centenary of the blessing and opening of this beautiful church building, where generations over the years have gathered as caring communities to celebrate Masses and the Sacraments.

On Pentecost Sunday, in 1918, six months before the end of World War I, ten thousand people from all over Melbourne gathered on the vacant land around the church to see and hear Archbishop Daniel Mannix bless and open this church. Daniel Mannix was one of several community leaders who opposed conscription in World War One. Many people at the church that day who shared his views, and many who had lost sons and daughters in the War, would have been very keen to hear him speak.

Over the last one hundred years issues have changed, but church communities still gather and pray about the needs and suffering of people in the wider community. Since World War II, Our Lady's has welcomed many migrants from Italy, and from other parts of Europe and Asia.



Parishioners gather outside Our Lady's church before Mass for the Acknowledgment to Country

After Maureen's welcome we were joined by two students from Our Lady's School, Evie and Linda, who spoke about the stories of the original people of the area.

Sincere thanks to all involved on the day, including Br Michael Herry, the choir and the musicians, and all who took part in the liturgy. Fr John McCarthy, parish priest at Our Lady's in the 70s, Monsignor Franco Cavarra, a deacon there in the late 90s, and Marist brother, Bill Dillon who was baptised at Our Lady's 89 years ago, joined us for the celebrations. Many thanks also to our current parish priest, Fr Michael Casey, for an inspiring homily about the church as a place of spirituality.

At the conclusion of the Mass we watched a slide show of photos of Our Lady's Church over the past one hundred years. Following the Mass, we gathered in the hall for an enjoyable afternoon tea.

Special thanks to Our Lady's Hall manager, Vince, and to all the parishioners who brought delicious food to share for the afternoon tea.

The Centenary Committee



Fr Michael and Lily Chalmers look up as the church bell begins to ring

In recent years, as part of the Catholic Parish of Brunswick and Brunswick East, we have welcomed refugees and asylum seekers. We have also gathered to express support for the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Abuse.

Our Lady's Church has developed as a beautiful place of worship. It has also developed as a caring community in which people support each other. And in which people are aware of current issues and the suffering of people beyond our own community.

The volunteers who answer the phone and door at the parish office

We are fortunate to have four volunteers who faithfully answer the phone and the door at the Parish Office. (On **Thursday** mornings the Parish Secretary, Ann Saunders, answers the phone and the door but in this article we are only featuring the parish volunteers.)



Kevin Barry



Sr Thérèse Power



John Murray



John Mikuz

Mondays

On Monday mornings **Kevin Barry**, who worked as an accountant, carries out this task. Kevin has been helping the parish in this way for over 10 years. Kevin was born in the northern suburbs of Melbourne, the eldest of six children. He has been married to Gloria, a teacher, for over 50 years. They have two children and six grandchildren. Kevin has been attending St Ambrose's Church for over 20 years and is an avid Collingwood supporter. He is happy to be able to support the parish in this way.

Tuesdays

On Tuesday mornings our volunteer is **Thérèse Power**, a Sister of Mercy. Thérèse was born in Mildura and has worked at all levels of Catholic Education in the Ballarat Diocese. Now living in Melbourne, Thérèse supports vulnerable women and in particular women who have been trafficked. She finds it a privilege to answer the phone and the door as she believes the receptionist is the front face of any organisation. She tries to provide a listening ear and show compassion as she responds to the requests that are made of her.

Wednesdays

Our Wednesday morning volunteer is **John Murray** who has worked in the economic strategy and policy field within government for many years and also taught economics at University level. John and his wife Bernadette, a nurse, live in Moonee Ponds and have been attending St Ambrose's Church for ten years. They have two children and a beautiful granddaughter. John serves on the Board of St Kevin's College Foundation and is a keen supporter of Melbourne Victory and Arsenal Football clubs.

Fridays

On Friday mornings **John Mikuz**, who worked as a family GP until he retired fifteen years ago, assists the parish in this way. John has a twin brother, William. They were born in Melbourne of Slovenian parents. Currently they are doing alterations and renovations to John's house. His interests and hobbies include reading, walking and fixing things. He also attends the parish book group and a Learning Guild. John enjoys the social interaction of volunteering and contributing in the parish.

Mary Connell

A Golden Jubilee

Fr Michael, pictured left, celebrates Mass at the parish celebration of his 50 years of priestly ordination.

At all the parish Masses on the weekend of 16–17 June, Fr Michael wore the vestments that had been given to him on the day of his ordination 50 years ago (they were a bit moth-bitten, but no one noticed!). These vestments had been handmade for him half a century ago by his sister-in-law, Mary.

Parishioners gathered after the 10.30am Mass to congratulate Fr Michael on this significant milestone in his life. For many, it was an opportunity to offer personal thanks and appreciation to him.

Many parishioners brought food to share for the lunch so they, and many others, went directly to the Parish Centre in readiness for the formal proceedings of the day.

After the Mass, parishioners gathered in St Ambrose's Community Centre for a PowerPoint/Video presentation which illustrated Fr Michael's 50 years of priestly ministry. The Video presentation also highlighted Fr Michael's long career as a presenter of 'Sunday Magazine' and other religious programs on TV.

Here's some of the crowd waiting for the presentation to start.



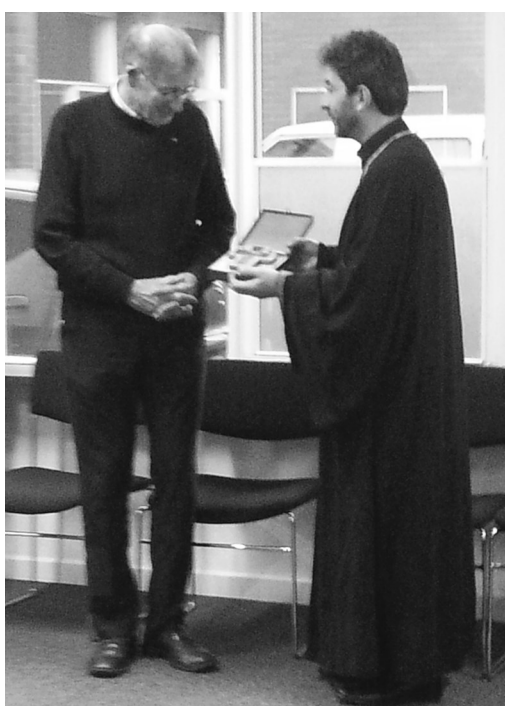


During the PowerPoint presentation, Fr Michael gave an explanation of the various images of his life.

Here he is telling us that the photo being projected on the wall was taken on the day of his first Mass, 16 June 1968, and that he was gathered with his family outside the family home in Edithvale.



After the PowerPoint/video presentation, it was time for some speeches. Bryan Cussen (standing) led the proceedings. Here we see Evie Morris presenting her speech on the significance of Fr Michael in her life, including her memory of the time he called her 'Cinderella' because she lost her shoe walking up the steps at her First Reconciliation! Her speech was warmly acclaimed, as were those by the other parishioners who spoke – Bryan Cussen, Margaret Duggan and Francesca Mercuri.



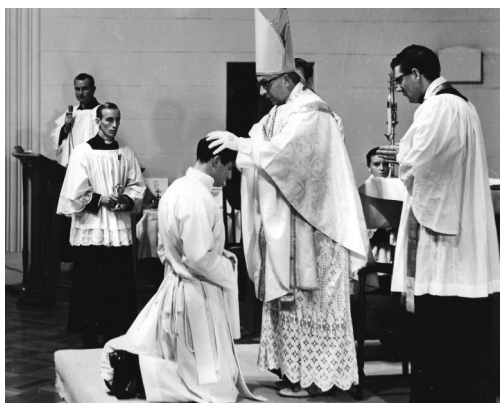
Later in the afternoon, Fr Samir Haddad arrived to congratulate Fr Michael and present him with a beautiful carved cross from Mt Athos. The cross, pictured left, is made from wax and incense and it has a beautiful fragrance. It now hangs in Fr Michael's office at St Ambrose's for those who wish to see it.

Fr Samir expressed his gratitude to Fr Michael and the parish for providing a place for the Syrian refugee community to gather. The Syrian community have the first floor of St Ambrose's Community Centre as a base for their activities including rehearsal space for the young Syrians' marching band!

50 Years of Priesthood

You might wonder where Fr Michael has ministered in the Archdiocese in the 50 years since his ordination. Pictured at right are the places he has lived and worked over that time. The small seed that was planted all those years ago has borne much fruit. We have been blessed to have him in our midst as a very committed Parish Priest, and we pray these final months of active priestly life will continue to be fruitful for him.

Tricia Murray



ORDINATION

Fr Michael is ordained at St Joseph's Church, Chelsea, on 15 June 1968.



DAY OF FIRST MASS

Fr Michael (back row, second from left) is pictured here with his family on the day of his first Mass 16 June 1968. His 'little mother' is far left. And his father is next to him in the middle of the back row.

FIRST APPOINTMENT
Holy Spirit Parish,
Manifold Heights
1969 – 1971



SECOND APPOINTMENT
Chaplain to Young
Christian Workers
1972 – 1976



THIRD APPOINTMENT
St Brendan's Parish,
Flemington
1977 – 1980



FOURTH APPOINTMENT
St Joseph's Parish,
Collingwood
1981 – 1996



FIFTH APPOINTMENT
St Ambrose's Parish,
Brunswick
1997 – Present



SIXTH APPOINTMENT
Our Lady's Parish,
Brunswick East
2009 – Present



Plenary Council 2020

On the Plenary Council 2020 website we read: “We are blessed with great diversity in our Catholic Church in Australia – many perspectives, experiences and encounters of faith, walks of life and vision for Church. We are called to explore what it is that we are called to, how we are called to be the presence of Jesus in Australia for today, and for generations to come. United by faith, we shall: **“Listen to what the Spirit is saying.”** Rev 2:7

The Plenary Council logo reflects a “community of communities”, drawing upon the message from Pope Francis about the nature of Church. He wrote in *Evangelii Gaudium*: “[The Church] is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach.” 28

The colours of the logo are inspired by the colours of our sunburnt country – ochre of the Red Centre, green from the Gum tree leaves, deep blue of the ocean we are surrounded by, and that of our Nation’s flag. They are tones and textures that reflect our beautifully unique Australian identity.’

Our parish community will be taking up the challenge to ‘listen to what the Spirit is saying’ when



Plenary Council 2020

Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

we meet together for dialogue and listening sessions, and where each person’s perspective will be valued. This first stage of Listening and Dialogue will continue until Ash Wednesday 2019.

Together, we are on a journey of listening to God by listening to one another. All parishioners will be invited to engage in the Listening and Dialogue Encounters – which will be an open and inclusive experience of listening, dialogue and discernment about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia. At any time before Ash Wednesday 2019, we will be able to submit our responses through the Plenary Council website.

Tricia Murray



As part of their preparation for First Communion, the students from Our Lady’s School attended a reflection day at St Ambrose’s Community Centre during the week before their big day. Pictured here is the group listening attentively to Fr Michael as he reflected with them on the meaning of the Eucharist. After this they celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the church. At lunch time, the children were free to play in the Saxon Street park. After lunch, there was the opportunity to prepare for Mass in St Ambrose’s church. The day finished with the celebration of the Eucharist together. This year, First Communions took place in the parish on the weekend of 2 and 3 June.

Congratulations Fr Michael!

From the students of Our Lady's School



On the day of Fr Michael's 50th anniversary of priestly ordination, the students at Our Lady's school had a whole-school assembly at which they presented a PowerPoint reflection, 'This is Your Life', highlighting the important aspects of Fr Michael's journey through life. Some of the younger children gave short statements about what Fr Michael means to them, and one of the classes sang a rousing rendition of the Richmond theme song, "Oh, We're From Tigerland" to which Fr Michael added his voice – singing rather heartily! The children presented him with a book of drawings and reflections about him which he now treasures greatly. Here are some of their drawings and reflections.



- ♥ Fr Michael is kind to all sick people.
- ♥ Fr Michael was on TV so that people could hear Mass when they were sick at home.
- ♥ I think Fr Michael prays to God a lot.
- ♥ Fr Michael blesses the wine and bread.
- ♥ Fr Michael blesses us with hope and love.
- ♥ Fr Michael is old and wise, and he doesn't tell lies.
- ♥ Fr Michael makes us pray to Jesus and think about what Jesus has given us.
- ♥ Fr Michael blesses things and people and helps people when they're hurt.
- ♥ Fr Michael wants us to be like God when we grow up.

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue:

Mary Connell, Maureen O'Brien, Fr Michael Casey, Tricia Murray, Sr Thérèse Power, Jack Rendell
Paul Mercieca (photographer), Students of Our Lady's School